



CBC Newsletter

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 48

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Number 3

Fall Meeting

Birding is Grand on the Strand

The Grand Strand isn't just a resting place for two legged creatures. It also provide a welcome respite for migrating winged creatures as well. By the time birders migrate to Litchfield for the Carolina Bird Club fall weekend, Sept. 27-29, 2002 migration should be in full swing. Donna Bailey and Gary Sowell have been working hard to make this one of the best fall weekends yet. Although the final schedule isn't complete, below are some enticing descriptions of a wide variety of field trips that will be offered.

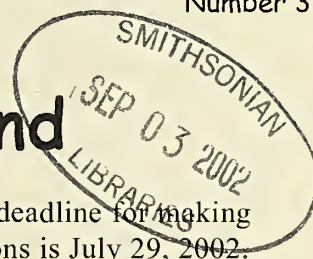
Because of the wide variety of habitats found in and around the Grand Strand birding in this area anytime of the year is great. But fall migration can be wonderful and has provided some pleasant surprises in the past. With this in mind Donna and Gary have planned a weekend with 'migration' as its theme. Friday night Dr. Bill Evans will share with us about the research he has done

with acoustical monitoring of nocturnal migrants. After his talk there will be a special evening field trip to listen for birds migrating along the coast.

The Litchfield Inn will again be the headquarters for this week-

end. The deadline for making reservations is July 29, 2002.

So mark your calendar now and plan to join us as we watch the migrants go by!



Fall Weekend Accommodations

Headquarters hotel for the Fall 2002 meeting is the Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina. Rooms can be reserved at Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort's sister property, the Litchfield Inn. A special block of rooms for Carolina Bird Club members will be available until **July 29**. Suites are available at Litchfield Inn for a slightly higher cost. Reservations should be made by calling 1-800-845-1897. Rates for the rooms and suites at the Litchfield Inn are:

	Room*	Suites*
Thursday	\$75.90	\$87.40
Friday and Saturday	\$87.40	\$90.85

*including 15% accommodation tax

Other hotels in the area are:

<i>Georgetown</i>	Rates	Phone
Number		
The Clarion Inn	\$190 - \$200	843-546-5191
Days Inn	\$39.95 - \$59	843-546-8441
Hampton Inn	\$71 - \$124	843-545-5000
<i>Pawleys Island</i>		
Holiday Inn Express	\$75 - \$99	843-235-0808
Ramada Inn	\$39.20 - \$68.85	843-237-4261
Hampton Inn	\$72 - \$86	843-235-2000
<i>Murrells Inlet</i>		
Holiday Inn Express	\$66.75 - \$129	843-357-0100



CAROLINA BIRD CLUB FALL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Litchfield, South Carolina

September 27-29, 2002

Name: _____

Day Phone: _____

Address: _____

Evening Phone: _____

City: _____

ST: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for _____ member (\$10) registration(s) and/or _____ nonmember (\$20) registration(s).

Please include names not listed above: _____

☐ This my [our] first time attending a CBC meeting.

**Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club & send to: CBC, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC
27601-1029**



FALL WEEKEND FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION

Litchfield, South Carolina

September 27-29, 2002

Name of Participants: _____

Field Trip Numbers: _____

Alternate Field Trip Numbers: _____

[If first choices have been closed because limits have been met.]

Return to: Carolina Bird Club & send to: CBC, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601-1029

Litchfield Field Trips

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MORNING - MID TO LATE MORNING

Topography Workshop (no sign-up needed - just show up)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 1:00 PM

#1 New Road/Conway Sewage Treatment Plant
(limited to 25 - no charge)

#2 Huntington Beach SP

#3 Bucksport/New Road

#4 Myrtle Beach SP

#5 Santee Coastal Preserve

FRIDAY NIGHT [after Friday night's speaker]

Nocturnal Listening (no sign-up needed)

SATURDAY MORNING - 7:00 AM

#6 North Jetty

#7 Myrtle Beach SP

#8 Francis Marion NF

#9 Sandy Island (limited to 22 - \$25 per person)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON - 1:00 PM

#10 Brookgreen Gardens (limited to 40 - \$11 per person)

#11 Huntington Beach SP

#12 Yawkey Wildlife Center (limited to 12 - no charge)

#13 Sandy Island (limited to 22 - \$25 per person)

#14 Pier Watch

SATURDAY - ALL DAY - 7:00 AM

#15 Huntington Beach SP

#16 Lewis Ocean Bay HP

#17 Francis Marion NF

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

BROOKGREEN GARDENS [#10]. Home to a number of Anna Hyatt Huntington's magnificent sculptures, the garden is also home to interesting birds. By special arrangement, this field trip will cover areas of Brookgreen not normally open to birders. Last time CBC met here, in the winter season, many birders obtained excellent looks at an assortment of rails. This time, the partly wooded and partly marshy habitat should host an assortment of migrating birds. There is a charge of \$11 per person for access to the Gardens.

BUCKSPORT SOD FARM AND NEW ROAD [#6]. This is another "two-for" trip. Rather than botany, however, for this field trip, it will be butterflies and birds. The open sunny areas of the sod farm attracts a great diversity of butterflies as well as migrating shorebirds and late September should be a good time to find both at Bucksport. The field trip will be led by a versatile leader able to identify both birds and butterflies.

FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST [#8, #17]. This area has a number of habitats, from freshwater pond to numerous longleaf pine savannas, habitat preferred by Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Francis Marion National Forest hosts one of the most accessible areas for Red-cockaded Woodpecker along the coast of South Carolina. Among the other species that have been found within the various units and habitats at Francis Marion National Forest are Swallow-tailed Kite and the ever more elusive "Wayne's Warbler", a coastal-breeding subspecies of Black-throated Green Warbler. The diversity of habitat should host a number of migrating songbirds.

HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK [#2, #11, #15]. If there is a home for "accidental" birds in South Carolina, it is Huntington Beach State Park. From White Wagtail in the spring to alcids, pelagic seabirds, and even accidental sparrows in winter, there is never any predicting just what might be at HBSP. Because of the diversity of habitats available at HBSP, from saltmarsh to freshwater lagoon to maritime forest as well as beachfront, birders at HBSP have found everything from woodland birds like uncommon Catharus thrushes to shorebirds like vagrant gulls in the fall season in the park. There will be multiple trips to HBSP, suited to a variety of energy levels and concentrating on selected habitats. Traditional park and



Continued on page 4

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

campground facilities are available. There is a nominal fee to enter the Park.

LEWIS OCEAN BAY HERITAGE PRESERVE [#16]. This is a great “two-for” field trip. For the “price” of one field trip, both birds and botany can be appreciated. The 9,400 acre preserve holds 23 undisturbed Carolina Bays boasting some distinctly uncommon plants and animals. The longleaf pine and pocosin habitat support uncommon plants like Pitcher Plants and Venus Flytrap and uncommon animals like Bachman’s Sparrows and Black Bear.

MYRTLE BEACH STATE PARK [#4, #7]. Just off the Boulevard in Myrtle Beach is one of the finest remaining stands of maritime forest. Accessed by an easy walking trail in the heart of Myrtle Beach State Park, in fall this Heritage Trust Site maritime forest should host a number of migrant birds as it represents an oasis of green along the highly developed Grand Strand. Myrtle Beach State Park encompasses 312 acres and has traditional park and camp-ground facilities. There is a nominal fee to enter the Park.

NEW ROAD AND THE CONWAY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT [#1]. This trip will be led by a local birder and should yield migrating shorebirds. Any trip to a sewage treatment plant can turn up oddities and Conway Sewage Treatment Plant is no exception. Because of security concerns on the part of the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority, it is limited to 25 people and will be offered only once.

NORTH JETTY [#6]. Another excellent way to get a peek at the fantastic birding of Huntington Beach State Park without the long walk to “the jetties”. Leaving from Garden City, the walk is an easy flat walk across the beach to the jetty. The North Jetty also boasts its own assortment of oddities, just as the South Jetty from HBSP does, including Little Gull, an assortment of scoters and Snow Bunting. Scopes are recommended.



PIER WATCH [#14]. It is possible to find pelagic seabirds without ever leaving dry land and a field trip that checks out a number of the fishing piers along the Grand Strand is just the way to find a “dry land pelagic”. This trip will make stops at Garden City Pier, Myrtle Beach State Park Pier, Springmaid Pier, and Apache Pier. As fall is also a period of active shorebird migration, the view of the beach from the piers may be as interest-ing as the view out to sea. There may be a nominal charge for entry to some piers and scopes are recommended.

SANDY ISLAND [#9, #13]. At almost 9,200 acres, Sandy Island is the largest remaining undeveloped tract of land in the Waccamaw Neck section of Georgetown county. Bounded by the Waccamaw and Great Pee Dee rivers and hemmed in by other largely undeveloped lands, Sandy Island is an under birded gem. By special arrangement with Captain Sandy, 44 lucky birders will be able to visit Sandy Island in two separate field trips. There is a charge of \$25 per person for the boat ride to Sandy Island.

Santee Coastal Reserve [#5]. The 24,000 acres of Santee Coastal Reserve are managed for waterfowl but are also an excellent place for waders and perhaps even an uncommon raptor or two. Nearly 300 species have been recorded at Santee Coastal Reserve. The hardwood bottoms are attractive to passerines at all seasons and should yield some lingering late-season breeding birds as well as migrants. A walk along the boardwalk into a cypress and water tupelo swamp should also find late-season breeders and migrating birds. Among the uncommon species that have been found here in late summer/early fall are Ruff and Swallow-tailed Kite. Long sleeves and long pants recommended for insect protection.

TOM YAWKEY WILDLIFE CENTER [#12]. This area is not normally accessible to birders but special arrangements have been made to allow a limited number of birders into Yawkey. Accompanied by a representative of SC Department of Natural Resources and a representative of Yawkey, 12 birders will be allowed to tour the grounds of Yawkey and learn a little of the history of the Center.

SAN BLAS, NAYARIT, MEXICO

TROPICAL BIRDING PERFECTION

Last winter I signed up for a birding group tour down to the Pacific coast of Mexico. I had always heard that San Blas was a wonderful place to go birding, but I was not prepared for such a pleasant time.

What a place! It was not far from home, had a relatively short flight, and landed with no jet lag. The climate was dry and temperate – pleasantly dry in the lowlands and pleasantly cool in the highlands. Most of the birding was done from a single base, a fine, family-run hotel in San Blas with great accommodation, food and service, a swimming pool in a lovely tropical garden and all within walking distance of the beach.

A variety of great birding habitats was within easy reach of the hotel – seashore, coastal scrub, thornforest, wetlands, estuaries, pastures, a shade coffee plantation, and mountain pine-oak forests.

The birding was not strenuous, but very productive. It's a very birdy locale, with many Mexican endemics within easy reach, as well as plenty of neotropical migrants. Among the many birds we saw that week, the highlights had to have been both Sinaloa and Happy Wrens, Elegant Quail, Sinaloa Crow, Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, Military Macaw, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Citoline Trogon, Blue Mockingbird and Yellow Grosbeak. We saw over 250 species on our 8-day trip. San Blas was the perfect location for an experienced tropical birder, and would also be a perfect introduction to neotropical birding. I am looking forward to another visit soon.

--Larry Farer

VENTURES WINTER UPDATE

The 2003 Ventures Calendar will be available very soon. Highlights this fall and winter include the following:

October 23: Broad River Greenway, Cleveland Co., NC

November 6: Day trip to Pacolet Valley, SC

December 3- 13: San Blas, Mexico

December 7-11: Chesapeake Bay, VA –winter gulls & ducks

January: Chan Chich, Belize

March: Dominica, WI

For a complete brochure, please contact the Ventures Office at PO Box 1095, Skyland NC 28776; call us at 828. 253.IBIS (4247); e-mail us at Travel@birdventures.com; or visit our website <http://www.birdventures.com>.

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Submit membership applications and change of address to:

*CBC Headquarters Secretary
11 W. Jones St.,
Raleigh, NC 27601-1029*

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CBC

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WEB SITE: www.carolinabirdclub.org